

Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association

Meeting, 26th April 2018
FV Mare Gratia, Port Penrhyn

Minutes

Attendance

Alan Winstone
Iwan Huws
James Wilson
Keith Andrews
Lewis le Vay
Tim Croucher

Chair
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Bangor Mussel Producers Ltd
Licensed hand pickers
Bangor University
Welsh Government

Observers

Kim Mould
Trevor Jones

BMWAG
Menai Strait (West)

Advisors

Jim Andrews

MSFOMA Secretariat

1. Chair's announcements

There were no announcements.

2. Apologies

Ioan Thomas
Rowland Sharp
Stuart Evans

Gwynedd County Council
Natural Resources Wales
Welsh Government (Head of Fisheries
Policy)

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 22nd February 2018 were accepted, pending some minor corrections.

4. Matters Arising

It was considered that most of the matters arising from the last meeting were addressed on the agenda for the current meeting. Some items were discussed:-

Wales National Marine Plan

It was agreed that the Association should follow up its response to the WNMP and seek opportunities for ongoing engagement in the development of this plan.

Action: Secretariat

Community Fund

It was agreed that a proposal for developing this fund should be presented to a future meeting of the Association.

Action: Secretariat & James Wilson

5. Membership of the Association

A report considering the membership of the Association was discussed by the meeting. Iwan Huws (Ynys Môn County Council) noted the different approach adopted by his authority and Gwynedd County Council, who had appointed an elected member rather than a Council officer.

Lewis LeVay indicated that he would investigate if it was possible for him to become a Director. The meeting considered that it could be beneficial to invite the Chair and Jim Andrews (Secretariat) to become Directors.

Action: Chair, Jim Andrews, Lewis LeVay

It was considered that if the Association was to widen its membership, then a representative of the landowners within the Fishery Order area should be considered. It was agreed that the Association should write to all landowners collectively to ask them to appoint a representative.

Action: Secretariat

It was also agreed that a list of the representative and user groups in the Menai Strait should be compiled. Some of these could be invited to participate in MSFOMA meetings on an ad-hoc basis. This activity would also ensure that MSFOMA was adequately represented on all of these groups.

Action: Secretariat

6. Financial Update

James Wilson reported that the accounts had been submitted and that a summary of the accounts would be presented to the next meeting (the AGM).

Keith Andrews requested a reduction of the lease fee for the Ballast Bank laying. After some discussion the Association agreed that payment of the fees for this laying could be deferred for a period of 12 months whilst Keith and his business partner started production in this area.

Action: Secretariat

Keith Andrews was asked to present a proposal for progressing this issue to the next meeting.

Action: Keith Andrews

7. Welsh Government Activity

a) Meetings of Fisheries Groups

It was noted that a meeting of the Welsh Marine Fisheries Group was due to take place on 16th May.

A meeting of the Aquaculture Advisory Group had been scheduled but had subsequently been cancelled. James Wilson has spoken to WG officials to encourage them to be more active in progressing the work of this Group.

b) Meeting with Cabinet Secretary

It was noted that the Chair had written to the Cabinet Secretary's office on a number of occasions to invite her to visit North Wales to see the Menai Strait shellfisheries.

It was agreed that the Association should encourage the Cabinet Secretary to visit the Menai Strait.

Action: Chair & Secretariat

c) General issues

Operators raised concerns about the lengthy process for authorising seed mussel harvesting in Wales, which often resulted in the loss of resources before harvesting was authorised. This situation contrasted with that in England and in Ireland.

James Wilson agreed to provide Tim Croucher some information about the procedure that was followed to authorise seed mussel collection at Whiteford Point in 2017.

Action: James Wilson

8. NW IFCA Activity

The report on recent activities of the NW IFCA was received and accepted by the meeting.

It was noted that a meeting of the Bivalve Mollusc Working Group was scheduled for the 3rd May. There were signs of seed mussels at Heysham and the "Falklands" skear, and it was hoped that there would be a seed mussel fishery this year.

9. Menai Strait East Fishery Order Renewal

a) Renewal of Order

It was reported that completion of the application process had been held up by some uncertainty about the current version of application forms that should be used. The Secretariat was currently discussing this with WG officials. Tim Croucher offered to assist in this process.

Action: Secretariat, Tim Croucher

The Association had been asked to attend a meeting with Beaumaris Town Council in early June. The Chair and Secretariat had been unavailable on the date proposed, and had submitted apologies. It was agreed that a meeting should be sought in July.

Action: Secretariat & Chair

b) Code of Good Practice

It was noted that this Code need to be revised. The revision would need to take account of changes in the non-native species that are now considered to be a risk, and also changes in legislation in the past 10 years. It should also contain clear links to new initiatives, such as the Marine Pathways Project being implemented by the GB Non-Native Species Secretariat.

It was agreed that the Association should liaise with NRW to progress the review of this code, for further discussion at the next Association meeting.

Action: Secretariat & James Wilson

10. Menai Strait West

The report on this matter was received and discussed. The Association expressed concern about the lack of progress with the request to determine the application. The Chair has written to the Cabinet Secretary to enquire about progress.

It was reported that Welsh Government have appointed a new officer to work on this application.

It was agreed that action should continue to be taken to encourage progress with the application for renewal of this Fishery Order.

Action: Chair & Secretariat

11. Funding proposals

Lewis le Vay provided an update on projects and grant applications that were being progressed by the Centre for Applied Marine Science (CAMS) in Menai Bridge.

Offshore area - a contract for installation of anchors and lines for spat collectors in this area has been let. Installation is due to take place in early June.

EMFF Bid - a bid for EMFF funds a project titled "Menai Offshore Subsurface Shellfish Systems" (MOSSS) was submitted on the 7th March. There is now a 6 month period for approval of the project.

The Association would be updated on progress with these projects.

12. Fishery Management Issues

a) Coastal / marine developments

i. Bangor Pier

Kim Mould reported that maintenance work was ongoing and that there had been no problems.

ii. Dickies Boatyard Development

The Association's response to the consultation on this issue was noted.

b) Environmental / health issues

i. Bonamia

No additional news.

ii. Invasive Alien Species (IAS) / Invasive Non Native Species (INNS)

Iwan Huws provided an update on the major clean-up exercise that had been led by Ynys Môn County Council after Storm Emma had devastated Holyhead marina. There had been concern that this could have resulted in the spread of *Didemnum vexillum*.

In summary, the Council had cleaned up over 4t of polystyrene from the Anglesey shore and over 30t from the harbour. Booms had been placed across the harbour mouth to contain pollution. All of the waste collected by the Council has been disposed in landfill site. Mr Huws reported that no *D. vexillum* had been recorded on the material that been recovered by the Council.

iii. Ballast Water Convention

Trevor Jones reported on the ongoing implementation of this Convention as part of the EU programme to prevent the spread of invasive alien species (EU Regulation 1143/2014).

The only vessel operating in the mussel fishery that is affected by the Directive is the Valente. Providing that any ballast water is appropriately discharged from the vessel, this has no implications for the operation and management of the fishery.

iv. International Labour Organisation: Work in Fishing Convention

Trevor Jones reported on the implementation of this Convention (, which was agreed in 2007 and entered force a year after the 10th ratification by a State (Lithuania 16th November 2016).

The Convention establishes rights for workers on fishing vessels and is intended to address the problem of forced labour in the international fishing industry. It was not thought that there would be any issues arising from implementation of the Convention in the UK fishing industry generally or in the UK aquaculture sector specifically.

v. Food Standards Agency

Lewis LeVay reported that he had been involved with discussions at the FSA Shellfish Stakeholder Group in March, at which the possibility of self-sampling and monitoring of shellfish was discussed (as practised in some other EU Member States). The meeting had been chaired by David Jarrad of the SAGB.

The next meeting of this Group was due to take place in May, and a further update would be provided at the next MSFOMA meeting.

vi. Norovirus

Two technical reports on Norovirus are due for publication later in 2018: one is a 3-year FSA study; the other is an EU report. The FSA report is due for publication in September and will look at vectors for the spread of Norovirus. The EU report is due for publication by the end of 2018 and will provide information on a baseline survey of Norovirus in mollusc production areas.

vii. Microplastics

Lewis LeVay indicated that the possibility of a study into microplastics in shellfish was being examined.

c) Meetings attended

i. Caernarfon Harbour Trust

There had been a meeting of the harbour trust that neither Trevor Jones nor Keith Andrews had been able to attend; both sent their apologies.

13. Any Other Business

a) Sand in Port Penrhyn dock

The operators all noted that sand stored on the quayside at Port Penrhyn was blowing into the dock and reducing the navigable depth. This issue had been raised with the Penrhyn Estate and it was felt that it would be helpful if MSFOMA wrote to the Estate about this issue as well.

Action: Secretariat

14. Date for next meeting

The next meeting was set for Tuesday 3rd July at 1000.